

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

**Claims 1-19: Canceled**

1   **20.** (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:  
 2           the step of making a lay-up includes the steps of:  
 3           wrapping each tube in the joint with a first carbon fiber fabric that is impregnated with the  
 4 matrix material, the ends of the fabric extending beyond the tube;  
 5           wrapping the ends of the carbon fiber fabric that is wrapped around a given tube around the  
 6 tube the given tube joins to;  
 7           wrapping the entire joint in a second carbon fiber fabric whose fibers have an orientation  
 8 different from that of the fibers in the first carbon fiber fabric.

1   **21.** (canceled)

1   **22.** (canceled)

1   **23.** (original) The method set forth in claim 20 wherein:  
 2           the step of wrapping the entire joint is done such that all seams in the second carbon fiber  
 3 fabric are at the top and bottom of the tubes and the second carbon fiber fabric is overlapped at the  
 4 seams.

1   **24.** (canceled)

1 **25.** (currently amended) A method of making a lug for a joint that joins carbon fiber  
2 tubes in a bicycle frame,

3 the method comprising the steps of:

4 making a lay-up of at least carbon fibers and a matrix material around the tubes at  
5 the joint, the lay-up forming a continuous wrap around the tubes;

6 applying a mold having abutting parting planes to the joint, the applied mold's  
7 inner surface completely enclosing the lay-up and the tubes at the joint ~~and the inner~~  
8 ~~surface having a lining of silicon which is trapped between the inner surface and the~~  
9 ~~enclosed lay-up and tubes~~; and

10 applying heat to the mold's interior, the heat causing the lay-up to cure and further  
11 causing ~~the trapped silicon to expand against the mold's inner surface~~ an expandable  
12 element located between the mold and the tubes to expand and compact the enclosed lay-  
13 up against the tubes evenly throughout the lug, whereby voids in the lug are prevented.

1 **26.** (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

2 the mold conducts heat; and

3 in the step of applying heat, the mold is made of a heat-conducting material and  
4 the heat is applied to the mold.

**27.** (previously presented) the method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

the distance between the inner surface of the mold and a tube being joined  
decreases as the distance from the joint increases,  
whereby the lug tapers towards the tube.

1 **28.** (new) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

2 the mold is lined with silicone; and

3 in the step of applying heat, the expandable element is the silicone.

1 **29.** (new) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

2 the step of making the lay-up includes the step of including a layer of expandable  
3 syntactic foam in the lay-up; and

4           in the step of applying heat, the expandable element is the expandable syntactic  
5   foam.

1   **30.** (new) The method set forth in claim 20 wherein:

2           the step of making a lay-up further includes the step of:

3           including a layer of expandable syntactic foam in the lay-up.

1   **31.** (new) The method set forth in claim 30 wherein:

2           the step of including a layer of expandable syntactic foam is performed before the

3   step of wrapping the entire joint in a second carbon fiber fabric.